

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 FEA-02 SCI-06 COME-00 TRSE-00

INT-08 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 DRC-01

AID-20 /125 W

----- 033840

R 011100Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7450

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 0467

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NP, IN

SUBJECT: NEPALESE PETROLEUM REQUIREMENTS

REF: KATHMANDU 0444

1. IN MY MEETING WITH NEPALESE FOREIGN MINISTER KARKI ON FEBRUARY 1, HE ESSENTIALLY CONFIRMED WHAT AMBASSADOR RASGOTRA HAD TOLD US EARLIER (REFTEL) ABOUT PRESENT STATUS OF THE OIL SUPPLY DISCUSSED BETWEEN INDIA AND NEPAL.

2. KARKI SAID THAT DELHI INITIALLY PROPOSED LIMITING NEPAL TO THE 1970 LEVEL OF PETROLEUM PRODUCT IMPORTS. WHEN KARKI STRENUOUSLY OBJECTED TO THIS, RASGOTRA HAD INTERVENED TO GET DELHI TO CONTINUE SUPPLIES AT THE 1972/73 LEVEL. I OBSERVED THAT THE PRESS WAS CURRENTLY CARRYING REPORTS OF A 30 PERCENT CUT BACK IN INDIAN DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SEEMED RESIGNED TO THE NEED FOR NEPAL TO TURN ELSEWHERE THAN TO INDIA TO SATISFY ITS ADDITIONAL OIL IMPORT REQUIREMENTS, ALTHOUGH HE REMARKED WITHOUT PURSUING IT THAT NEPAL'S ADDITIONAL NEEDS WOULD BE INSIGNIFICANT IN COMPARISON WITH INDIA'S
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VAST CONSUMPTION AND WONDERED WHY INDIA NOT "TAKE CARE OF

IT."

4. KARKI SAID GON WAS NOW BEGINNING TO FOCUS ON HOW TO MEET ITS PETROLEUM REQUIREMENTS BEYOND ITS 1972/73 LEVEL. HE SEEMED TO BE INDICATING THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT REQUIRED WOULD BE ABOUT 100,000 METRIC TONS FOR 1974, SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 15 PERCENT ABOVE THE LEVEL OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR. KARKI SAID THEY WERE THINKING OF APPROACHING IRAN TO SEE WHAT KIND OF A DEAL COULD BE WORKED OUT. THEY WERE ALSO WONDERING IN A "THINKING OUT LOUD" WAY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ASKING AID DONORS TO PROVIDE FOREIGN EXCHANGE FINANCING AND PERHAPS ARRANGE PROCUREMENT FOR SIGNIFICANT PETROLEUM PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS IN DEVELOPING PROJECTS.

CARGO

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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